NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NOAA In Your State

Georgia

"NOAA's science based work touches 300 million Americans daily, protecting lives and livelihoods. NOAA's products and services are the result of the hard work of our dedicated staff and partner organizations located in program and research offices throughout the globe. The following is a summary of NOAA programs based in, and focused on, your state or territory. The entries are listed by statewide, region, and then by congressional districts and cities or towns."

Dr. Kathryn Sullivan
Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and NOAA Administrator

GA

Statewide

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Restoration Center

NMFS Restoration Center works with local partners in Georgia to restore oyster reefs and coastal shorelines. Since 2003, nine projects have been initiated and more than 570volunteers have contributed their efforts to coastal habitat restoration through the Community-based Restoration Program. NMFS, in cooperation with federal partners, the States of Georgia &South Carolina along with regional and local entities, is involved in several projects in Savannah Harbor associated with the Georgia Ports Authority Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. Through the Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program, the Restoration Center also collaborates with other agencies, industry, and citizens to protect and restore coastal marine resources in Georgia threatened or injured by oil spills, releases of hazardous substances, and vessel groundings. Specifically, the Restoration Center is leading the restoration planning for the LCP chemical site in Brunswick, GA. NOAA's RC is currently working cooperatively with the other trustees and Honeywell International (one of five potentially responsible parties) to evaluate opportunities to compensate for the injured habitats and resources.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Protected Resources Division

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center, along with State partners, monitors the migration of the critically endangered Right Whales each year along the Georgia coast, an important calving/nursery area for this species.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Geodetic Advisor
The Geodetic Advisor is a jointly funded National Ocean Service (NOS) employee that resides in the state to provide liaison between NOS and the host state. The Geodetic Advisor guides and assists the state's charting, geodetic and surveying programs through technical expertise. The program is designed to fill a need for more accurate geodetic surveys, and is in response to the desire of states to improve their surveying techniques to meet Federal Geodetic Control subcommittee standards and specifications. The surveys provide the basis for all forms of mapping and engineering projects and monitoring of the dynamic Earth. This program also provides technical assistance in planning and implementing Geographic/Land Information System (GIS/LIS) projects.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Automated Surface Observing Systems Stations
The Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) program is a joint effort of the National Weather Service (NWS), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and the Department of Defense (DOD). ASOS serves as the Nation's primary surface weather observing network. ASOS is designed to support weather forecast activities and aviation operations and, at the same time, support the needs of the meteorological, hydrological, and climatological research communities. ASOS works non-stop, updating observations every minute, 24 hours a day, every day of the year observing basic weather elements, such as cloud cover, precipitation, wind, sea level pressure, and conditions, such as rain, snow, freezing rain, thunderstorms, and fog. There are 17 ASOS stations in Georgia.

National Weather Service (NWS) - Cooperative Observer Program Sites
The National Weather Service (NWS) Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) is truly the Nation's weather and climate observing network of, by and for the people. More than 10,000 volunteers take observations on farms, in urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores, and mountaintops. The data are representative of where people live, work and play. The COOP was formally created in 1890 under the NWS Organic Act to provide observational meteorological data, usually consisting of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, snowfall, and 24-hour precipitation totals, required to define the climate of the United States and to help measure long-term climate changes, and to provide observational meteorological data in near real-time to support forecast, warning and other public service programs of the NWS. The data are also used by other federal (including the Department of Homeland Security), state and local entities, as well as private companies (such as the energy and insurance industries). In some cases, the data are used to make billions of dollars' worth of decisions. For example, the energy sector uses COOP data to calculate the Heating and Cooling Degree Days which are used to determine individuals' energy bills monthly. There are 153 COOP sites in Georgia.

National Weather Service (NWS) - NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards Transmitters
NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service (NWS) forecast office. NWR broadcasts official NWS warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it the single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with federal, state, and local emergency managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages). Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the NWS. NWR includes 1,100 transmitters covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. There are 29 NWR transmitters in Georgia.

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Sea Grant Program
NOAA's National Sea Grant College Program is a federal-university partnership that integrates research, education and outreach (extension and communications). Sea Grant forms a network of 33 programs in all U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states, Puerto Rico and Guam. The Georgia Sea Grant College Program is headquartered at the University of Georgia (UGA) in Athens. Through statewide research, education and extension programs, Georgia Sea Grant works to promote the wise use of marine and coastal resources. Georgia Sea Grant sponsors research projects with universities and research institutions throughout the state in the areas of coastal ecosystem health modeling, marine ecosystem dynamics, biotechnology, fisheries' health, coastal hazards and water quality. The program partners with UGA Marine Extension, located in Savannah, Brunswick, Athens and Atlanta, to provide training and outreach to diverse stakeholders and decision makers, such as local governments, resource managers and coastal businesses. Extension staff also work with stakeholders to identify real-world challenges that can be addressed by scientific investigation. The efforts address issues critical to the economic and environmental health of coastal Georgia. Additionally, Georgia Sea Grant provides educational opportunities for students, interns and the public to learn about the marine environment.

Coastal

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program
Deep-sea coral habitats are complex structures that provide habitat for many diverse fish and invertebrate communities including commercially important species such as grouper, snapper, sea bass, rockfish, and crab. The Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program is the nation's resource for information on deep-sea coral and sponge ecosystems. The Program—called for in the reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act—worked with other NOAA offices and external partners to conduct research cruises off the Southeastern U.S. Using sonar technology and remotely operated and manned submersibles, new deep-sea coral reefs were discovered off the Southeastern seaboard.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Species Recovery Program
Under the authority of section 6 of the Endangered Species Act, the Cooperation with States Program brings states, NMFS, and other partners together to recover threatened and endangered species. Competitive grants are awarded to states through the Species Recovery Grants to States Program to support management, monitoring, research and outreach efforts for species that spend all or a portion of their life cycle in state waters. The funded work is designed to prevent extinctions or reverse the decline of species, and restore ecosystems and their related socioeconomic benefits. Twenty-five coastal states, including Georgia and U.S. territories, currently participate in this program. The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is in the 2nd year of a 3-year $501,000 grant to qualify the annual recruitment and the nursery habitats of Atlantic Sturgeon in GA. The Department is also in the final year of a 3-year $1.6 million joint grant with the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources to assess the population of loggerhead turtles and implement high priority recovery actions.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program
The National Marine Mammal Stranding Network and its trained professionals respond to dead or live marine mammals in distress that are stranded, entangled, out of habitat or otherwise in peril. Our long-standing partnership with the Network provides valuable environmental intelligence, helping NOAA establish links among the health of marine mammals, coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities as well as develop effective conservation programs for marine mammal populations in the wild. There is one stranding network member in the state. NOAA Fisheries funds eligible members of the Stranding Network through the competitive John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grant Program. Since 2001, $48.2 million has been awarded to 552 grantees who raised over $15.9 million in matching funds. In FY15, 34 grantees received $2.7 million nationwide.

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - Sea Turtle Salvage and Stranding Network
The Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network (STSSN) was formally established in 1980 to collect information on and document strandings of marine turtles along the U.S. Gulf of Mexico and Atlantic coasts. The network, which includes federal, state and private partners, encompasses the coastal areas of the eighteen-state region from Maine to Texas, and includes portions of the U.S. Caribbean. Data gathered by the Network helps inform bycatch reduction efforts, track factors affecting turtle health, and provide other information needed for sea turtle management and population recovery.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association
The U.S**.** Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS)® Program is an operational system and a network of regional partners responsible for regional observations, data management, modeling and analysis, education and outreach, and research and development. The overarching purpose of U.S. IOOS is to address regional and national needs for ocean data and information. The Southeast Coastal Ocean Observing Regional Association (SECOORA) coordinates coastal and ocean observing activities, and facilitates continuous dialogue among stakeholders so that the benefits of a sustained coastal and ocean observing system can be realized. SECOORA's vision is to protect people by providing comprehensive information and tools, conserve the marine environment by providing ocean current, wind, and ecosystem condition information, and enhance the coastal economy by providing information and models to facilitate effective decision-making.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Navigation Manager
NOAA's navigation managers work directly with pilots, port authorities, and recreational boating organizations in Georgia. They help identify the navigational challenges facing marine transportation in Georgia and provide NOAA's resources and services that promote safe and efficient navigation. Navigation managers are on call to provide expertise and NOAA navigation response coordination in case of severe coastal weather events or other marine emergencies. The Office of Coast Survey has a navigation manager in Charleston, South Carolina to support mariners and stakeholders in the Southeast region.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program
The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP) brings conservation partners together to protect coastal and estuarine lands considered important for their ecological, conservation, recreational, historical, or aesthetic values. To date CELCP has protected more than 100,000 acres of land nationally and awarded two grants in Georgia. The program provides state and local governments with matching funds to purchase significant coastal and estuarine lands, or conservation easements on these important lands that are threatened by development. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity so that they may be enjoyed by future generations. CELCP has created an interactive map highlighting information about completed projects in your state.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Coastal Management Program
Through a unique Federal-state partnership, NOAA's Office for Coastal Management (OCM) works with the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to implement the National Coastal Zone Management Program in Georgia. OCM provides the coastal management program with financial and technical assistance to further the goals of the Coastal Zone Management Act and ensure our coastal waters and lands are used in a balanced way to support jobs, reduce use conflicts, and sustain natural resources.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - **Atlantic Environmental Response Management Application**
Assessing important spatial information and designing successful restoration projects rely upon interpreting and mapping geographic information, including the location, duration, and impacts from oil spills, other hazardous materials, or debris released into the environment. Atlantic ERMA® is an online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, such as Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps, ship locations, weather, and ocean currents, in a centralized, easy-to-use format for environmental responders and decision makers. In the fall of 2012, Atlantic ERMA was employed as the Common Operational Picture for the U.S. Coast Guard's pollution response to Hurricane Sandy in New York and New Jersey waters.

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Marine Debris Projects and Partnerships
The NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) leads national and international efforts to research, prevent, and reduce the impacts of marine debris. The program supports marine debris removal, education and outreach, and research projects in partnership with state and local agencies, tribes, non-governmental organizations, academia, and industry.

National Weather Service (NWS) - National Data Buoy Center Buoys
The National Weather Service (NWS), through its National Data Buoy Center (NDBC), develops, deploys, operates, and maintains the current national data buoy network of moored and drifting weather buoys and land stations that serve all of the Nation’s coastal states and territories. Within this network, 110 of the buoys and 51 of the land stations are maintained directly by NDBC. Located at NASA's Stennis Space Center in Mississippi, supports weather and marine warning and forecast services in real time by providing deep ocean and coastal meteorological and oceanographic observations. These data provide valuable information used by NWS supercomputers to produce computer-generated model forecasts of the atmosphere and climate. NDBC manages the Volunteer Observing Ship program to acquire additional meteorological and oceanographic observations supporting NWS mission requirements. NDBC also supports operational and research programs of NOAA and other national and international organizations.

GA-1
Brunswick
National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - U.S. Climate Reference Network
The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of 134 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

Fort Pulaski
National Ocean Service (NOS) - National Water Level Observation Network
NOS operates one long-term continuously operating tide station in the state of Georgia, which provides data and information on tidal datums and relative sea level trends, and is capable of producing real-time data for storm surge warning. This station is located at Fort Pulaski. The station is associated with a set of tidal benchmarks installed in the ground that is used to reference the height of the water levels and helps connect the water level to land.

Glynco

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - National Training Office

NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement is the only conservation enforcement program (Federal or State) that is exclusively dedicated to Federal fisheries and marine resource enforcement. Its mission is to protect global marine resources by enforcing domestic laws and international treaties and obligations dedicated to protecting wildlife and their natural habitat. Our special agents and enforcement officers ensure compliance with these laws and take enforcement action if there are violations. Additionally, the Cooperative Enforcement Program allows NOAA the ability to leverage the resources and assistance of 27 coast states and U.S. territorial marine conservation law enforcement agencies in direct support of the Federal enforcement mission. Effective fisheries law enforcement is critical to creating a level playing field for U.S. fishermen and enabling sustainable fisheries to support vibrant coastal communities.

Sapelo Island

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Sapelo Island National Estuarine Research Reserve

The 6,110 acre Sapelo Island Reserve was designated in 1976 and is managed by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Sapelo Island is the fourth largest barrier island in the state and is one of the most pristine. The site is protected for long-term research and monitoring, stewardship and education. At this site education tours for school groups and special archaeological and natural history programs for the public are available. Marine and estuarine research is a tradition at Sapelo Island. Research projects include habitat restoration, oyster reef ecological studies, and invasive species monitoring. The reserve also conducts long-term monitoring of environmental conditions.

Savannah

National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) - NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program

The Southeast Fisheries Science Center supports the Savannah State University/NOAA Cooperative Marine Education and Research Program. The goal is to conduct research in line with the interests of NOAA Fisheries while preparing students for careers in research, management, and public policy that support the sustainable harvest and conservation of our nation's living marine resources.

NOAA Office of Education - Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center

The University of Maryland - Eastern Shore leads NOAA's Living Marine Resources Cooperative Science Center (LMRCSC) with its partners: Delaware State University, Hampton University, Savannah State University, the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science Institute of Marine and Environmental Technology, Oregon State University, and the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. This Center is part of NOAA's Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions. LMRCSC conducts research in the marine sciences, with areas of specialization in fisheries science, oceanography, ecology, environmental sciences, and environmental molecular biology/biotechnology. LMRCSC develops a pool of highly educated and skilled students from underrepresented groups in the marine sciences. LMRCSC's primary collaborator is the National Marine Fisheries Service.

Skidaway Island

National Ocean Service (NOS) - Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, off the coast of Georgia, is the only natural protected reef area on the continental shelf off the Georgia coast and one of only a few natural marine protected areas between Cape Hatteras, North Carolina and Cape Canaveral, Florida. It is just one of 14 marine protected areas that make up the National Marine Sanctuary System and is governed by the *National Marine Sanctuaries Act*. The 22 square miles (about 14,000 acres) of Gray's Reef is just a small part of the U.S. territorial Atlantic Ocean, yet its value as a natural marine habitat is recognized nationally and internationally. Since 1981, NOAA has protected the quality of this unique and fragile ecological community as a national marine sanctuary allowing recreational use by boaters, fisherman and divers. Teeming with marine life, Gray's Reef is also an important site for scientific study and a success story for how we, as a country, protect our significant underwater resources for future generations.

GA-2

Newton

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - U.S. Climate Reference Network

The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operationally viable research network of 134 climate stations that are deployed nationwide. Data from the USCRN are used in various climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. The USCRN provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

Macon

Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Science On a Sphere®

Science On a Sphere (SOS) is a room-sized global display system that uses computers and video projectors to display planetary data onto a six-foot diameter sphere, analogous to a giant animated globe. Researchers at NOAA developed Science On a Sphere® as an educational tool to help illustrate Earth System science to people of all ages. Animated images of atmospheric storms, climate change, and ocean temperature can be shown on the sphere, which is used to explain in a way that is simultaneously intuitive and captivating, what are sometimes complex environmental processes.

GA-3

Hampton

National Weather Service (NWS) - Center Weather Service Unit

Housed in the Federal Aviation Administration's Atlanta Air Route Traffic Control Center (ARTCC), the NWS Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) staff provides aviation forecasts and other weather information to ARTCC personnel for use in directing the safe, smooth flow of aviation traffic in central Georgia, western South Carolina, western North Carolina, central Alabama, and eastern Tennessee.

Peachtree City

National Weather Service (NWS) - Weather Forecast Office

Co-located with the NWS Southeast River Forecast Center in Peachtree City, this NWS Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is staffed around-the-clock every day, and provides the best possible weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings to residents of Georgia. Highly trained forecasters issue warnings and forecasts for events, including severe thunderstorms, tornadoes, winter storms, floods, and heat waves. This essential information is provided to the general public, media, emergency management and law enforcement officials, the aviation and marine communities, agricultural interests, businesses, and others. Information is disseminated in many ways, including through dedicated government channels, satellite, the Internet, and NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards.

Forecasters also provide Impact-based Decision-Support Services (IDSS), both remotely and on-site, during critical emergencies, such as wildfires, floods, chemical spills, and for major recovery efforts. The WFO collects and disseminates precipitation, river, and rainfall data, and prepares local climatological data. Each WFO has a Warning Coordination Meteorologist who actively conducts outreach and educational programs, which helps build strong working relationships with local partners in emergency management, government, the media and academic communities. The WFO operates Automated Surface Observing Stations (ASOS), as well as the local Doppler Weather Radar, which provides critical information about current weather conditions. The radar data enables forecasters to issue warnings for tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and flash floods.

National Weather Service (NWS) - River Forecast Office

Co-located with the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Peachtree City, the Southeast River Forecast Center (RFC) performs continuous river basin modeling and provides hydrologic forecast and guidance products for rivers and streams in for the southeastern U.S. covering most of Alabama, Georgia, Florida, South Carolina and North Carolina. These products include forecasts of river stage and flow, probabilistic river forecasts, reservoir inflow forecasts, gridded precipitation estimates and forecasts, spring flood outlooks, and flash flood and headwater guidance. Some of the RFCs in the western and central U.S. also provide water supply forecasts. RFCs work closely with local, state and federal water management agencies, including the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Geological Survey, to provide water and flood information for critical decisions (aka Impact-based Decision-Support Services or IDSS).

GA-10

Watkinsville

National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) - Climate Reference Network

The U.S. Climate Reference Network (USCRN) is an operational network of climate stations. Data from the USCRN will be used in operational climate monitoring activities and for placing current climate anomalies into an historical perspective. NOAA's National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) manages the USCRN. The USCRN also provides the United States with a reference network that contributes to an International network under the auspices of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS).

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Georgia

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